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U.S. Appln. No. 09/920,104
Reply to Office Action dated April 3, 2007PATENT
450100-03401REMARKS

In light of the above amendatory matter and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-33 remain in this application. Claims 1-33 were rejected in the Office Action under reply for the following reasons:

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 14-16, 18 and 27 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as allegedly obvious in view of the combination of Lownes (EP 0 993 185) and Nishimura (US Pat. 5,412,418) (the "basic combination").

Claims 3 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as allegedly obvious in view of the basic combination, further combined with Sugiyama (US Pat. 5,815,631).

Claims 7-11, 13, 20-24 and 26 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as allegedly obvious in view of the basic combination, further combined with Gerszberg (US Pat. 6,020,916).

Claims 6 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as allegedly obvious in view of the basic combination, further combined with Official Notice that a computer will execute a program.

Claims 12 and 25 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as allegedly obvious in view of the combination of Lownes and Gerszberg, further combined with Official Notice.

Claims 28-33 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as allegedly obvious in view of the basic combination, further combined with Gerszberg and Ryu (US Pat. 5,442,452).

By this amendment, all of the independent claims, namely, claims 1, 5-7, 11-14, 18-20, 24-28 and 31, are amended to emphasize the following feature that is not found in any of the references as relied upon by the Examiner: the temporary storage of played back image data or audio/video contents that is transmitted to a reception apparatus or a reception section, and the

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repetitive reading out of the temporarily stored image data or audio/video contents when playback to the reception apparatus or reception section is stopped or paused. The purpose of this feature of repetitively reading out temporarily stored data at the reception apparatus is to permit the bandwidth of the connection to the reception apparatus (e.g. a IEEE 1394 connection) to be used effectively during a pause in the operation of the playback section of the transmission apparatus at the other end of the connection (see paragraphs [0029] and [0056] of the publication of the present application, as well as paragraph [0126], as an example). Heretofore, if there was a pause operation at the transmission apparatus, data nevertheless would be sent repetitively from the transmission apparatus to the reception apparatus so that the display at the reception apparatus would operate properly to provide a continuous display of image data or audio/video contents even though there was a pause at the transmission apparatus. Consequently, the bandwidth of the IEEE 1394 connection between the transmission and reception apparatuses was used to transmit the redundant repetitive data. The present invention permits more efficient and productive use of that bandwidth.

Lownes, Gerszberg, Ryu and Sugiyama were described in the REMARKS section of the amendment filed February 16, 2007. The feature of temporarily storing at a reception apparatus image data or audio/video contents that are played back and transmitted to the reception apparatus and then repetitively reading out the temporarily stored data when playback to the reception apparatus is paused, is not found in these references. In the Office Action under reply, the Examiner relies on col. 8, lines 40-59 of Gerszberg as an alleged teaching of repetitive display. However, Gerszberg describes a "short repeating loop of the last few moments of video ..." that is transmitted from one video phone to a receiving party (see, also, col. 11, lines 48-51 and claim 6 of Gerszberg). This is the very problem that is addressed and overcome by the

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present invention, namely, occupying the bandwidth of the connection from a transmission apparatus to a reception apparatus by repeated transmission of an image during a pause operation. Gerszberg does not suggest the following recitations found in the respective claims noted below:

Claim 1:

said reception apparatus having a temporary store to temporarily store the played back image data transmitted thereto;

the image data stored in said temporary store is repetitively read out while said playback and transmission sections are stopped.

Claims 5 and 6:

a temporary storage step of temporarily storing the played back image data transmitted to the reception apparatus;

a repetitive read out step of repetitively reading out the image data temporarily stored at the reception apparatus while the playback and transmission of the image data are temporarily stopped.

Claim 7:

a storage section having a storage capacity at least for one screen for temporarily storing the played back image data received by said reception section;

a control section for controlling a display apparatus ... to repetitively read out and display the image data temporarily stored in said storage section.

Claims 11 and 12:

a storage step of temporarily storing the played back image data received by the reception step;

controlling ... when a message representing that playback of the image data is temporarily stopped is received through said transmission line, said display step to repetitively read out and display the temporarily stored image data.

Claim 13:

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said reception apparatus including ... a storage section having storage capacity at least for one screen for temporarily storing the played back image data received by said reception section,

and a control section for ... controlling, when a message representing that playback of the image data is temporarily stopped is received through said transmission line, said display apparatus to repetitively read out and display the image data temporarily stored in said storage section.

Claim 14:

said reception apparatus having a temporary store to temporarily store the played back image data transmitted thereto;

a control section ... for controlling said reception apparatus to repetitively read out from said temporary store the temporarily stored image data while said playback of said image data is stopped.

Claims 18 and 19:

a storage step of temporarily storing the played back image data that is transmitted to said reception apparatus;

a control step ... for causing the temporarily stored image data to be repetitively read out while the playback of said image data is stopped.

Claim 20:

a storage section having a storage capacity at least for one screen for temporarily storing the played back image data received by said reception section;

a display control section for controlling, when the instruction to temporarily stop the playback of the image data is received, said display apparatus to repetitively read out and display the image data temporarily stored in said storage section.

Claims 24 and 25:

a storage step of temporarily storing the played back image data received by the reception step into a storage section having a storage capacity at least for one screen;

a display control step of causing, when the instruction to temporarily stop the playback of the image data is received, the repetitive read out and display of the image data temporarily stored in said storage section.

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Claim 26:

said reception apparatus including ... a storage section having a storage capacity at least for one screen for temporarily storing the played back image data received by said reception section,

a display control section for controlling, when the instruction to temporarily stop the playback of the image data is received, said display apparatus to repetitively read out and display the image data temporarily stored in said storage section.

Claims 27 and 28:

a storage section having a storage capacity at least for one screen for temporarily storing the played back audio/video contents received by said reception section;

a playback apparatus to play back the audio/video contents temporarily stored in said storage section; and

a control section operable ... to control, when a message representing that playback of the audio/video contents is temporarily stopped is received through said transmission line, said playback apparatus to repetitively play back and display the audio/video contents stored in said storage section.

Claim 31:

a storage step of temporarily storing the played back audio/video contents received by said reception step into a storage section having a storage capacity for at least one screen;

a playback step of playing back the temporarily stored audio/video contents; and

a control step of controlling ... said playback step to repetitively play back and display the audio/video contents temporarily stored in said storage section based on the message representing a pause mode,

Consequently, the reliance upon Gerszberg fails to meet the terms of Applicant's claims.

Nishimura is newly cited, but this reference fails to cure the omission of Lownes and Gerszberg, noted above. The Examiner relies upon Nishimura to find separate channels for transmitting control information and for transmitting video and audio data, respectively. Nishimura is not suggestive of repetitively reading out temporarily stored data during a pause in the operation of the playback section at the transmitter.

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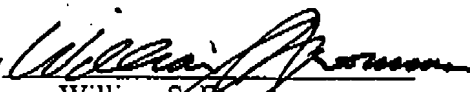
Therefore, since the prior art relied upon in the Office Action under reply is not suggestive of all of the features defined by Applicant's claims 1-33, it is respectfully submitted these claims are patentably distinct over the combination of Lownes, Nishimura, Gerszberg, Sugiyama and Ryu. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejections of these claims and an indication of allowability are respectfully solicited.

Statements appearing above in respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney and, in the event the Examiner disagrees with any of such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the references providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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